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Surface Distortions of Asymmetric Line Profiles

by

P. T. Leung and Thomas F. George

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Departments of Chemistry and Physics State University of New York at Buffalo Buffalo, New York 14260

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# SURFACE DISTORTIONS OF ASYMMETRIC LINE PROFILES

P. T. Leung and Thomas F. George
Departments of Chemistry and Physics & Astronomy
State University of New York at Buffalo
Buffalo, New York 14260

## **Abstract**

Distortions of asymmetric Fano profiles for a molecular system above a metallic grating surface are investigated within a simple model. A double-peak feature as well as a shift of the profile window are observed due to the surface plasmon mode.



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#### I. Int. sduction

Recently, there has been great interest in the study of surface effects on photoabsorption and photodescrption line shapes for an adspecies on a surface. 1-10 This includes the treatment of vibration and vibrationrotation spectra of chemisorbed and physisorbed nolecules. In addition, line profiles involving electronic transitions leading to direct photodissociation of a molecule physisorbed on a rough metallic surface have also been studied for the cases of a metallic spheroid and a shallow sinusoidal grating 7,8 as the substrate. Furthermore, the distortions of the spectra of a dipole on a randomly rough metallic surface have been studied in a fully quantum mechanical approach. Aside from adsorption spectra, 1-9 the line shape of the photodesorption yield has also been examined for physisborbed molecules. 10 However, in most of the previous investigations, the line profile for the free molecule (i.e., in the absence of the surface) has almost always been assumed to be symmetric, often of a Lorentzian type,  $^{1-10}$ so that asymmetric distortions are brought about by the presence of the surface. 1-9 One very interesting example is the Langreth line shape which describes the distortion of a vibrational Lorentzian towards a Fano profile, due to energy transfer between the molecule and the surface via the electron-hole-pair mechanism. 3,4 Nevertheless, among these surface distortion phenomena there remains one case uninvestigated, which is that when the line profile for the free molecule case is already asymmetric in nature. This would include, for example, processes like autoionization or predissociation in molecular systems. It is the purpose of the present letter to present a model study of the surface distortions of such "intrinsic" asymmetric profiles. Specifically, we shall study the dipole

photoabsorption spectra on top of a metallic grating, which is considered as a prototype of rough surfaces.

#### II. Theory

Instead of calculating exactly the line shape function in a quantum mechanical manner, we shall simulate the absorption process by a classical mechanical model and then look for relative profile distortions due to surface effects. This is in the same spirit of the previous work by our group and others in which the free Lorentzian profile for direct photodissociation processes is simulated in the context of the "driven damped oscillator model", and then profile distortions are found by introducing the surface effects into the process via terms including the external driving field and the damping constant.

To describe a "free asymmetric profile", we adopt the mechanical model recently proposed by Sorbello  $^4$  to describe the Fano effect in atomic physics.  $^{11}$  The model consists of the coupling of a normal mode ( $\omega_{_{\scriptsize O}}$ ) to a lossy broad-band system such as a viscous bath, with both the oscillator and the bath being described by one degree of freedom. The line shape function obtained in this model can be reexpressed  $^{12}$  in the form

$$I_{o}(\omega) = \frac{(q + \epsilon_{o})^{2}}{1 + \epsilon_{o}^{2}} \sigma_{o}(\omega) , \qquad (1)$$

where q is the asymmetric profile index depending on the <u>ratio</u> of the driving force on the oscillator to that on the bath, and  $\sigma_{0}(\omega)$  is the background intensity due to direct excitation of the bath. In case of actual molecular processes, q is defined as the <u>ratio</u> of the transition matrix elements from the initial state to two states whose linear combination gives the final state of the system,  $^{11,13}$  and  $\sigma_{0}(\omega)$  corresponds

to the cross section for direct excitation of the continuum. The reduced energy variable  $\epsilon_0$  in Eq. (1) is expressed as

$$\varepsilon_{0} = \frac{2(\omega - \omega_{0} - \Delta\omega_{0})}{\gamma_{0}} , \qquad (2)$$

where  $\Delta\omega_0$  and  $\gamma_0$  are the level shift and decay rate of the system, respectively. In general,  $\Delta\omega_0$  <<  $\omega_0$ , and hence

$$\varepsilon_{0} = \frac{2\Delta\omega}{\gamma_{0}}$$
(3)

with  $\Delta \omega \equiv \omega - \omega_0$ .

To investigate the distortions of  $I_0(\omega)$  due to the presence of a rough metallic surface, we shall consider the oscillator as a point dipole oriented perpendicularly on top of a shallow sinusoidal grating, a case which we have formulated before for a Lorentzian  $I_0(\omega)$ . Analogously, we have the surface line shape function expressed as

$$I(\omega) = \frac{(q + \varepsilon)^2}{1 + \varepsilon^2} |\hat{n}_{\mu} \cdot [1 + A] \cdot \hat{n}|^2 \sigma(\omega) , \qquad (4)$$

where quantities without the subscript 'o' refers to those at the surface, and  $\epsilon$  is now defined as

$$\varepsilon = \frac{2\Delta\omega}{\gamma} \quad . \tag{5}$$

We have in this approach neglected the surface effects on q and  $\omega_0$ ; this is justified since, for the former, the effects enter into the <u>ratio</u> of two transition matrix elements which may be regarded as approximately cancelling each other, and for the latter such effects have been found to be small. <sup>14</sup>
In this way, surface effects will only enter via the decay rate  $\gamma$  in Eq. (5)

and the field enhancement factor A in Eq. (4), the latter including both of the Fresnel reflected and the surface plasmon fields.  $^7$   $\hat{n}_{\mu}$  and  $\hat{n}$  in Eq. (4) are the unit vectors of the molecular dipole and the incident field, respectively. For a dipole located at (0,0,d), it has been found that  $^7$ 

$$|\hat{\mathbf{n}}_{u}\cdot[1+A]\cdot\hat{\mathbf{n}}|^{2} = |1+Re^{2ik_{z}d}+Se^{(ik_{z}-\Gamma_{g})d}|^{2}\sin^{2}\theta$$
, (6)

where  $\theta$  is the angle of incidence of the laser light, and the quantities R, S,  $\mathbf{k}_{\mathbf{Z}}$  and  $\Gamma_{\mathbf{g}}$  are defined as in Ref. 7. Furthermore, the surface-induced molecular decay rate can be expressed as

$$\frac{Y}{Y_0} = 1 + \frac{3}{2} \frac{q}{k^3} \text{ Im } G^F \left(1 + \frac{\text{Im } G^R}{\text{Im } G^F}\right) ,$$
 (7)

where again all symbols are the same as in Ref. 7.

With the results in Eqs. (6) and (7) substituted into Eqs. (4) and (5), we can calculate the line profile for a molecule on top of a metallic grating by assuming some reasonable form for  $\sigma_{0}(\omega)$ . Within the present model study, we have considered the following three different cases with the surface always taken to be a sinusoidal silver grating whose dielectric constant as a function of photon energy is available in a numerically-fitted form. <sup>7</sup>

Case (i)  $\sigma_{O}(\omega) = \sigma(\omega) = constant$ .

In this case,  $I_o(\omega)$  may simulate certain atomic autoionization processes (e.g., the photoabsorption line shape of helium in the neighborhood of the first  $^1P^0$  resonance).  $^{11,15}$  In Fig. 1, we show both the line shapes  $I_o(\omega)$  and  $I(\omega)$  for some hypothetical profile constants (see the figure caption). We see that the frequency corresponding to the zero of the

absorption cross section shifts towards a larger value. This is because q < 0 in this case and  $\gamma > \gamma_0$  as in Eq. (7).

Case (ii) 
$$\sigma_o(\omega) = \sigma(\omega) = 1/\omega^2$$
.

In this case,  $I_o(\omega)$  simulates a molecular predissociation process (e.g., the predissociation of the  $D^1\Pi^+_u$  levels by the  $B^{*1}\Sigma^+_u$  continuum in the photodissociation experiment of hydrogen molecules  $^{16}$ ). The result is shown in Fig. 2, where we see that the 'window' at the steep edge at the low frequency end of the original profile is broadened due to the enhancement effect by the surface plasmon field. At the high frequency end of the distorted profile, the surface plasmon resonance leads to a new window.

Case (iii) 
$$\sigma_o(\omega) = \frac{\gamma_o}{(\omega - \omega_o)^2 + \gamma_o^2/4}$$

For the above Lorentzian,  $\sigma(\omega) \neq \sigma_O(\omega)$  since  $\gamma_O$  is replaced by  $\gamma$  in Eq. (7). The effects of the surface distortion of the profile  $I_O(\omega)$  are similar to case (ii) (Fig. 3), except that the original window is not broadened as much.

#### III. Results and Discussion

In all cases (i) to (iii), the dipole is fixed at a distance of 500 Å from the grating, which has a spatial period of 8000 Å and an amplitude-to-period ratio of approximately 10<sup>-2</sup>. In addition, the angle of incidence is fixed at 0.6 rad and the surface plasmon resonance occurs at about 2.9 eV photon energy. We observe that the "double peak" feature appears in all cases, corresponding to the resonance of the molecular system and that of the surface plasmon, respectively. Furthermore, a surface enhancement effect is in general observed, implying that enhanced molecular photopredissociation may also be possible, provided the molecule is not located

too close to the surface and the resonant plasmon field decays very slowly in the direction perpendicular to the surface.  $^{7,17}$ 

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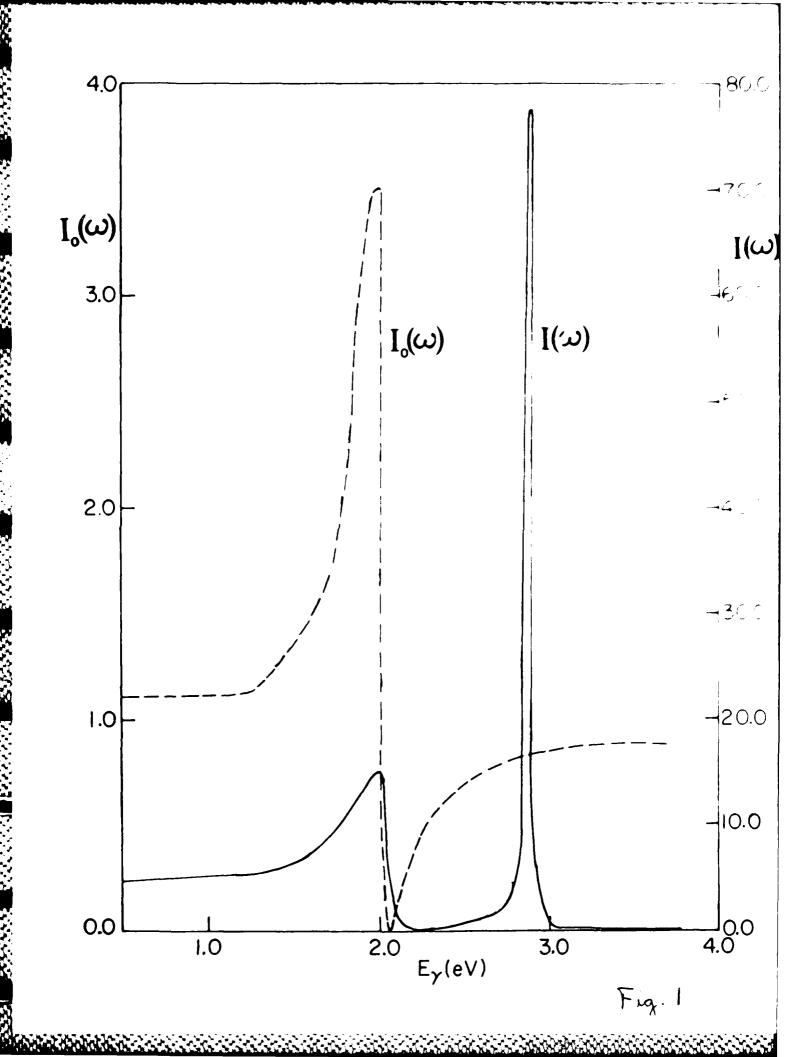
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#### Figure Captions

- 1. Distortion of the Fano profile with  $\sigma_{0}(\omega)$  = constant. The profile constants are:  $\gamma_{0} = 5 \times 10^{2}$ ,  $\omega_{0} = 1.6 \times 10^{4}$  and q = -2.65. Note that the scales for  $I_{0}(\omega)$  and  $I(\omega)$  are different. The y-axis quantities are in arbitrary units for all three figures.
- 2. Distortion of the Fano profile with  $\sigma_{o}(\omega) = 1/\omega^{2}$ . The profile constants are:  $\gamma_{o} = 4 \times 10^{3}$ ,  $\omega_{o} = 1.17 \times 10^{4}$  and q = +3.0.
- 3. Distortion of the Fano profile with a Lorentzian  $\sigma_0(\omega)$ . The profile constants are the same as in Fig. 2.



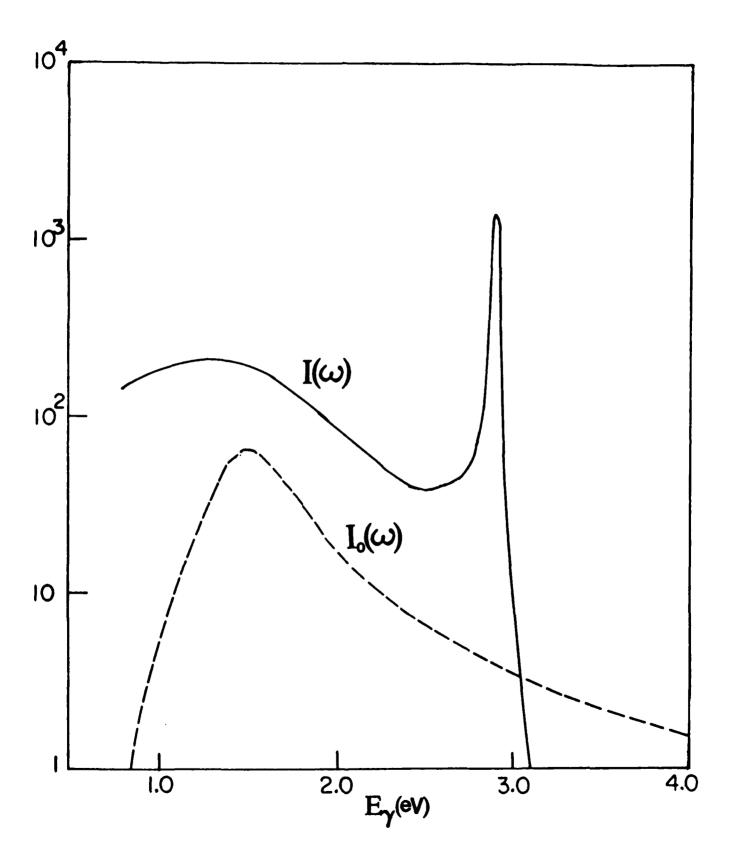


Fig. 2

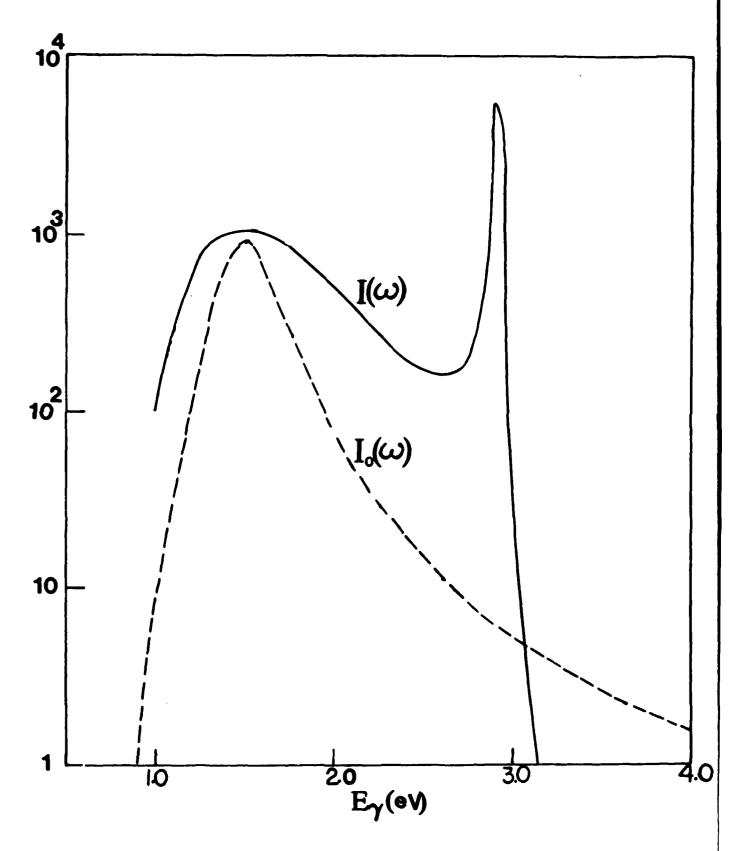


Fig. 3

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Dr. J. H. Weaver
Department of Chemical Engineering
and Materials Science
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dr. A. Reisman Microelectronics Center of North Carolina Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709

Dr. M. Grunze Laboratory for Surface Science and Technology University of Maine Orono, Maine 04469

Dr. J. Butler Naval Research Laboratory Code 6115 Washington D.C. 20375-5000

Dr. L. Interante Chemistry Department Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Troy, New York 12181

Dr. Irvin Heard Chemistry and Physics Department Lincoln University Lincoln University, Pennsylvania 19352

Or. K.J. Klaubunde Department of Chemistry Kansas State University Manhattan, Kansas 66506 Dr. C. B. Harris Department of Chemistry University of California Berkeley, California 94720

Dr. F. Kutzler
Department of Chemistry
Box 5055
Tennessee Technological University
Cookesville, Tennessee 38501

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Dr. Mark Johnson Yale University Department of Chemistry New Haven, CT 06511-8118

Dr. W. Knauer Hughes Research Laboratory 3011 Malibu Canyon Road Malibu, California 90265

Or. G. A. Somorjai Department of Chemistry University of California Berkeley, California 94720

Dr. J. Murday
Naval Research Laboratory
Code 6170
Washington, D.C. 20375-5000

Dr. J. B. Hudson Materials Division Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Troy, New York 12181

Dr. Theodore E. Madey
Surface Chemistry Section
Department of Commerce
National Bureau of Standards
Washington, D.C. 20234

Dr. J. E. Demuth
IBM Corporation
Thomas J. Watson Research Center
P.O. Box 218
Yorktown Heights, New York 10598

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Department of Metallurgical
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Madison, Wisconsin 53706

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Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

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Chicago, Illinois 60637

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University of North Carolina
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Dr. Horia Metiu Chemistry Department University of California Santa Barbara, California 93106

Dr. W. Goddard
Department of Chemistry and Chemical
Engineering
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California 91125

Dr. P. Hansma Department of Physics University of California Santa Barbara, California 93106

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California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California 91125

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University of Pennsylvania
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Dr. E. Yeager Department of Chemistry Case Western Reserve University Cleveland, Ohio 41106

Dr. N. Winograd
Department of Chemistry
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

Dr. Roald Hoffmann Department of Chemistry Cornell University Ithaca, New York 14853

Or. A. Stecki
Department of Electrical and
Systems Engineering
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Troy, NewYork 12181

Dr. G.H. Morrison Department of Chemistry Cornell University Ithaca, New York 14853

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